

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-9 and 23-34 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating and satisfying demand demands from different users for at least one item ~~items~~, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for ~~associated with the item~~, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, wherein said aggregating step aggregates requests from different users for the item and the information for each user is aggregated independent of a commitment by the remote user to purchase the item;

providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the request;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote ~~users~~ user; and

providing the proposed response to each of the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote ~~users~~ user can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating and satisfying demand demands from different users for travel products, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests from different users, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, wherein said aggregating step aggregates requests from different users for the item and the information for each user is aggregated independent of a commitment by the remote user to purchase the item;

selecting a proposed group travel product based on the aggregated information; and

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 3

providing information reflecting the proposed group travel product to each of the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selecting a group of travel product based on the aggregated information includes the substeps of:

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers, wherein said providing step provides the information independent of a commitment by the remote users ~~user~~ to purchase the travel products; and

receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and

wherein the step of providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information includes the substep of:

transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group travel products to a set of remote users based on the aggregated information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the travel products.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for aggregating and satisfying demand demands from different users for at least one item ~~items~~, comprising:

a processor for executing programs; and

a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, wherein said aggregating step aggregates requests from different users for the item and the information for each user is aggregated independent of a commitment by the remote user to purchase the item, (ii) providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests, (iii)

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 4

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users ~~user~~, and (iv) providing the proposed response to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for aggregating and satisfying demand ~~demands~~ from different users for travel products, comprising:

a processor for executing programs; and

memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests from different users, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, wherein said aggregating step aggregates requests from different users for the item and the information for each user is aggregated independent of a commitment by the remote user to purchase the travel products, (ii) selecting a proposed group travel product based on the aggregated information, and (iii) providing information reflecting the proposed group travel product to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the travel products.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein selecting a group of travel products based on the aggregated information includes (a) providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers, wherein said providing step provides the information independent of a commitment by the remote users ~~user~~ to purchase the item; and (b) receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and wherein providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information includes (a) transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group travel products to a set of remote

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 5

users based on the aggregated information, whereby the remote users user can determine whether to commit to purchasing the travel products.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying demand demands from different users for at least one item ~~items~~, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for ~~associated with~~ the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, wherein said aggregating step aggregates requests from different users for the item and the information for each user is aggregated independent of a commitment by the remote user to purchase the item;

providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the request;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users ~~user~~; and

providing the proposed response to the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users user can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying demand demands from different users for travel products, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests from different users, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, wherein said providing step provides the information independent of a commitment by the remote users ~~user~~ to purchase the travel products;

selecting a proposed group travel product based on the aggregated information; and

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 6

providing information reflecting the proposed group travel product to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the travel products.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein selecting a group of travel products based on the aggregated information includes:

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers, wherein said providing step provides the information independent of a commitment by the remote users ~~user~~ to purchase the travel products; and

receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and

wherein the step of providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information includes:

transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group travel products to a set of remote users based on the aggregated information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the travel products.

Claims 10-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said aggregating step aggregates a plurality of items that collectively form a set of travel products,

said providing aggregated information provides aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, wherein each supplier is at least capable of supplying at least one of the items in the set of travel products,

said receiving receives proposed responses from at least one supplier for each item in the set of travel products, and

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 7

said providing the proposed response gathers the proposed responses into at least one proposed set of travel products and provides information reflecting the proposed set of travel products to the remote users ~~user~~.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 23, wherein a first supplier has a first discount on a first item in the set of travel products and a second supplier has a second discount on a second item in the set of travel products, and wherein said providing the proposed response selects the items respectively from said first and second supplier and provides information reflecting the first and second discounts to the remote users ~~user~~.

25. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 4, wherein
said aggregating information instruction aggregates a plurality of items that collectively form a set of travel products,
said providing aggregated information instruction provides aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, wherein each supplier is at least capable of supplying at least one of the items in the set of travel products,
said receiving instruction receives proposed responses from at least one supplier for each item in the set of travel products, and
said providing the proposed response instruction gathers the proposed responses into a proposed at least one set of travel products and provides information reflecting the proposed set of travel products to the remote users ~~user~~.

26. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 25, wherein a first supplier has a first discount on a first item in the set of travel products and a second supplier has a second discount on a second item in the set of travel products, and wherein said providing the proposed response instruction selects the items respectively from said first and second supplier and provides information reflecting the first and second discounts to the remote users ~~user~~.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to Claim 7,
wherein said aggregating information aggregates a plurality of items that collectively form a set of travel products,

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 8

said providing aggregated information provides aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, wherein each supplier is at least capable of supplying at least one of the items in the set of travel products,

said receiving receives proposed responses from at least one supplier for each item in the set of travel products, and

said providing the proposed response gathers the proposed responses into at least one proposed set of travel products and provides information reflecting the proposed set of travel products to the remote users user.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to Claim 27, wherein a first supplier has a first discount on a first item in the set of travel products and a second supplier has a second discount on a second item in the set of travel products, and wherein said providing the proposed response selects the items respectively from said first and second supplier and provides information reflecting the first and second discounts to the remote users user.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating and satisfying demand ~~demands from~~ different users for at least one item ~~items~~, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for ~~associated with the item~~, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the request;

receiving at least two proposed responses from one or more of the suppliers, where each response includes a proposal for providing the item to the remote users user; and

providing the at least two proposed responses to the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, to thereby allow the remote users user to evaluate the at least two proposed responses.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for aggregating and satisfying demand ~~demands from~~ different users for at least one item ~~items~~, comprising:

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 9

a processor for executing programs; and
a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, (ii) providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests, (iii) receiving at least two proposed responses from one or more of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users user, and (iv) providing the at least two proposed responses to the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, to thereby allow the remote users user to evaluate the at least two proposed responses.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying ~~demand~~ demands from different users for at least one item items, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the request;

receiving at least two proposed responses from one or more of the suppliers, where each response includes a proposal for providing the item to the remote users user; and

providing the at least two proposed responses to the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, to thereby allow the remote users user to evaluate the at least two proposed responses.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for aggregating and satisfying ~~demand~~ demands from different users for at least one item items, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system of:

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 10

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the request, wherein said providing step provides the aggregated information to the suppliers independent of any predetermined maximum price for the items;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users user, wherein a proposed price for the items is set by the supplier and independent of any predetermined maximum price; and

providing the proposed response to the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users user can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item based at least on the price set by the supplier.

33. (Currently Amended) A system for aggregating and satisfying demand demands from different users for at least one item items, comprising:

a processor for executing programs; and

a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users for associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, (ii) providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests, wherein said providing step provides the aggregated information to the suppliers independent of any predetermined maximum price for the items, (iii) receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users user, wherein a proposed price for the items is set by the supplier and independent of any predetermined maximum price, and (iv) providing the proposed response to the remote users user based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users user can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item based at least on the price set by the supplier.

Appl. No.: 09/438,957
Filed: November 19, 1999
Page 11

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying ~~demand~~ demands from different users for at least one item ~~items~~, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests from different users ~~for associated with~~ the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the request, wherein said providing step provides the aggregated information to the suppliers independent of any predetermined maximum price for the items;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote user, wherein a proposed price for the items is set by the supplier and independent of any predetermined maximum price; and

providing the proposed response to the remote users ~~user~~ based on the remote user identification information, whereby the remote users ~~user~~ can determine whether to commit to purchasing the item based at least on the price set by the supplier.